

### Fire Department.

"Just for Fun."

So said a young lady who in company with pleasant friends was walking one summer day near the railway in a Canadian city. The train was coming. Nearer and nearer it thundered along its way toward the depot. The thoughtless girl proposed crossing the track in front of it "just for fun." With quick ejaculations of alarm her friends pleaded with her to desist from so dangerous an adventure, but paying no heed to their entreaties, in a mere spirit of frolic she sprang upon the track, her dress caught in the ponderous engine, and in another moment the fair and beauteous form lay mangled, crushed, and lifeless mass under the relentless wheels. She gave words were her last—she never spoke again. We have seen the young man leave his country home, and all the hallowed associations of parents and sisters, whose affections were twined about him, to seek employment in the crowded city. A good situation was procured—his prospects were fair. But evil comrades came around him and lured by their flatteries, he went with them to their haunts of vice. His mad pleasures were described in smooth words: "I'll keep myself," he boasted, "I'll go on just for the fun of the thing." He passed on to the chambers that take hold on death and hell, and that night the angels mourned over one who, despite a mother's entreaties and warnings, began a downward career of ruin from which he has never recovered.

And so men and women are every day stepping into the path of destruction. "Just for fun." Multitudes of people, young, gay, and proud, are doing evil, or putting themselves in harm's way, not because they are sophisticated or wicked, but because they are careless of consequences, and heedless of their ways, not stopping to seriously consider the end of putting one's self in the track of temptations.

Says the apostle, "Young men likewise exhort to be sober-minded." Life is a serious reality. Rocks and wrecks are all around us, and those who leave the safe channel of duty and venture in the untrodden ways of sin "just for fun," will find by sad experience that "there is a way that seemeth good unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

In the case of such we cry with affection and alarm, "Take care!" The fun which begins in lightness and vanity ends in death and destruction. Beware of the dangerous path. Shun the approaches to it. There is a safe way; walk ye therein. It is a dreadful thing to perish through the indulgence of a little brief fun, when the gate to happiness and life unending stands open wide. Oh, will you to-day commence to think upon these things, and be wise, for—

—The Christian.

### What We Miss.

From the Sunday-School Times.

A friend, who has this summer visited that patient child of God, Chloé Lankton, told me that she met in Chloé's village three or four ladies, who had lived there for six years, and had never seen her.

Still the words are true that "a prophet is not without honor, save in his own country." Here at these people's doors, God had placed one of his monuments.

A dear friend of Jesus, wonderfully sustained through years of protracted suffering, was near them, and they had never made an effort so much as to give to her, even a cup of cold water.

The "innamuch" of the Saviour had never come into his beautiful, blessed meaning, to their consciousness.

But let us not boast unduly. Are there no opportunities that we miss? Are there none by our side, who need help from us, and do not get it? Are there none whom we might learn from, if we but tried?

We cannot afford to miss opportunities. Let us look for them.

### A Mother's Work.

Many a discouraged mother folds her tired hands at night, and feels as if she had, after all, done nothing, although she has not spent an idle moment since the rose. Is it not something that your little helpless children have had some one to come to with all their childish griefs and joys? Is it nothing that your husband feels "safe," when he is away to his business, because your careful hand directs everything at home? Is it nothing, when his business is over, that he has the blessed refuge of home, which you have that day done your best to brighten and refine? O weary, and faithful mother! you little know your power when you say: "I have done nothing." There is a book in which a fairer record than this is written over against your name.

**Waking Grandma with a Kiss.**

A sweet incident is related by a writer. She says:

"I asked a little boy last evening: 'Have you called grandma to tea?' 'Yes. When I went to call her, she was asleep, and I didn't know how to wake her. I didn't want to bother grandma, or to shake her; so I kissed her cheek, and that woke her very softly. Then I ran into the hall and said pretty loud:

"Grandma tea is ready, and she never knew what woke her."

Do we find anything more sweet and delicate than this? Can conventionalities improve upon such politeness, spontaneous in the heart of a six-year-old boy?

### Unkind Words.

How many little children have sung the hymn which can never die? But have they thought that unkind words live as long as kind ones? An exchange paper says, truly of them: "You may tame the wild beast; the configuration of the American forests will cease when all the timber and the dry underwood is consumed; but unkind words will never be destroyed; they will grow and multiply, and will be the curse of the world."

### Farm and Household.

Causes of Disease in Sheep.

The report of the Agricultural Department for 1870 states that "there was during that year no loss amongst flocks that had been well fed and properly treated; and that nearly all the losses reported were traceable to 'cruel neglect and reckless disregard of the health and comfort of the sheep affected.' The report is not in dispute. It is not to be wondered at that either the 'cruel neglect or disregard' was intentional, but it was not the less to be deplored that it was the want of knowledge of the proper mode of treatment. It is widely believed that sheep do not need much water in winter. This is a great mistake, and leads to cruel neglect. If sheep are permitted access to water it will be seen that not only do they drink often but that they are very choice about the quality of what they drink. In a pasture there may be a spring brook and a pure, bubbling spring. The sheep will pass 20 rods down the bank of the brook to drink from the spring. And yet we have seen sheep shut up in a filthy yard, and compelled to drink the liquid refuse that filled the holes trodden in the snow and dung. Is not the severity of the above quoted remark justified in such cases? Then again, sheep suffer from irregularity in feeding, from close damp atmosphere, from sudden changes in temperature, and of all stock kept on a farm, the sheep generally fare the worst, are subject to most neglect in feeding, have the poorest lodging, and are not seldom left to lie out in the storm, supposing that they can stand all this on account of the warm coat nature has provided for them, forgetting all the while that this coat depends for its quality and warmth on the care and treatment they receive. The fact is, many farmers pick up a few sheep for the reason that they can 'browse around' and cost nothing for their keep. These sheep generally are discovered to be that what costs nothing is worth just what it costs and no more. Now all this leads to disease, loss, and unfavorable results of the value of sheep as stock, when with proper care and well-judged treatment they may be made to pay as well as find, or better, than any investment a farmer can make.

### A Few Hints.

Make an inventory of everything on the farm and in the house, with an estimate of its value. Do it carefully and thoroughly. In case of fire, it will be a great help in settling insurance claims.

Attend to your insurance. See that it is not run out, and that the companies are sound.

Many fires originate from carelessness in placing ashes in barrels, or throwing them in a loose heap where they come in contact with wood. Provide a suitable place for them, either of brick or iron.

Animals must receive constant and regular attention. They cannot be neglected for a single day. Be careful to give them abundance of fresh water, and avoid as much as possible keeping them to drink water that is full of melting snow or ice. Provide some kind of shelter for all animals.

Horses that are doing nothing should be watered on good, bright straw, with four or five pounds of corn per day, cheaper than on hay. If they are worked regularly, they require higher feeding; say ten pounds grain, ten pounds hay, and ten pounds straw per day. On a grain-farm, where straw or corn-stalks are abundant and hay is scarce, one third hay, and one third straw and stalks, cut up together with one third the weight of corn-meal mixed with it, makes a cheaper and more nutritious food than more hay and less grain.

Cows do far better on stalks than on straw. They do not like to litter. Our stalks were so well cut that they, after the cows were taken from the pasture and fed in the stables on stalks, they increased in their milk and the quality of the butter improved. Cows that are giving milk will pay for a little corn-meal, say two quarts per day, in addition to the straw, or hay, and the stalks and well watered. In stormy weather it is best to keep them in the stable all the time, except to turn them out twice a day to water. Many farmers only water once, and this will do when they run in the yard for two or three hours, but otherwise it is far better to water twice. Give them some hay to drink. Cows are not like horses in this respect. A horse will drink at once all he wants, but a herd of cows need longer time and more or less hounding.

**Anecdote of Scott.**

It is a curious fact that Scott, harmonious poet as he was, had no ear for music, unless it were that of a ballad, and he would repeat that horribly out of tune. He was, however, in tune with all humanity; as much so with a king as with the humblest of his subjects. When we went on board the royal yacht which had arrived near the island of St. Helena, and such rain as fell upon it in Scotland, Scott, in an off-hand, yet respectful way, told the king that the weather reminded him of the stormy day of his own arrival in the Western Highlands, weather which so disgusted the laundress of the inn, who was used to the weather of the West, and apologized for it. "Guide, guide us, this is just awful! Siccan a downpour, was ever like. I really beg your pardon! I'm sure it's nae fault o' mine. I canna think how it should happen to rain this way just as you o' men! It looks awfully personal! I canna say, for my part, I'm just ashamed o' the weather! Having this spoken to the king Scott added: 'I do not know, sire, that I can improve upon the language of the honest innkeeper. I canna think how it should rain in this way, just as your majesty, of all men in the world, should have been so vexed by it, come and see us. I can only say in the name of my countrymen, I'm just ashamed o' the weather!' It was at Scott's petition that the royal landing was deferred till the next day, which brought all the sunshine that was considered necessary for the occasion.

**Sips of Punch.**

Ye infant prodigy—Maggie—Why is your hair so gray, Maggie?—Mamma—Well, because you're such a naughty child!—Maggie—What a naughty child you must have been! Poor Grandma's hair's quite white!

A Cautious Lady—'O, Amy! you ought never to wear a ring on your third finger, unless you are really engaged. Mamma says it often prevents a good offer!'

Puffing and blowing are often considered as synonymous terms. You will discover a difference, however, if instead of puffing a man up, you should blow him up with a couple of hundred yards, that will go on blowing, poisoning burning, beyond our own comprehension, now and forever.

**The Secret of Happiness.**

A philosopher says that the true secret of earthly happiness is to enjoy pleasures as they arise; for that man who can keep his eye upon the bright present, while it is bright, tastes the cup of sweetness prepared for him; but we are prone to look forward to distant objects, and we should be enjoying those that are near.

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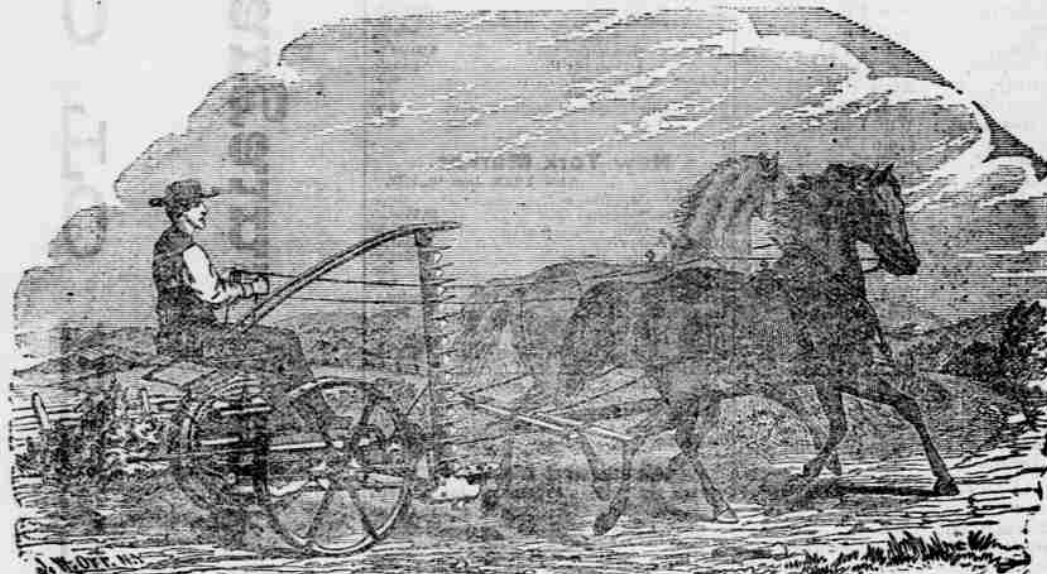
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